

SUMMER FIXINGS

Good Time Now to Make
Fresh Selections.

UPHOLSTERY FABRICS

VARIETY OF MATERIALS FOR
THE HOT WEATHER

Cretone and Other Cottons and
Pretty Ways of Us-
ing Them

In everything the tendency seems to be to reverse the seasons in a way; or rather to project summer into winter. The florist gives spring flowers in December and January, which are used to show in a natural way, before etherizing and forcing brought the blooms to perfection in the depths of winter.

In the shops from January 1 the thinnest of hot-weather dress materials are the special displays, and the choicest novelties come to the fore there to entice purchasers, who, if they hesitate, are lost for often it is impossible to duplicate these earlier fabrics, when the legitimate time comes for making and wearing the filmy gowns, so attractive as one sees them first, with snow and sleet, the portion of weather that fall to us.

In the same comparatively new fashion the furniture shops exploit at this season the newest charming things in summer furnishings.

All the dainty colors used for summer gowns seem to be matched in wicker furniture and the cretonnes with which they are fitted.

For several seasons past as spring drew near one might see pretty green or scarlet wicker furniture, but now many shades in addition are used and one may match a costume if one wishes.

The Dainty Shades.

Lavender, pale blue, deep blue and pink, as well as the older colors used, are all to be obtained in delightful shapes and fine enamel finish.

White, of course, has been used before, but usually an ivory shade was chosen. Now a novelty consists of a blue-white, which is almost the prettiest thing shown, and the variety of pieces makes the furnishing of many rooms possible if desired.

In reading the other day I came across the advice to buy wicker furniture, but not rattan, as in the latter the shapes and decoration are so tasteless. It is true, and it is well to bear this in mind if one of the other is to be selected for summer use.

The variety of chairs in the wicker or wicker-like terms seems interchangeable—is very large, and among the imported ones are many English shapes. There is nothing prettier or more comfortable than the winged chair, with padded cushions fitted to the seat, back and wings.

Dainty and Gay.

In white enamel finish, with fittings of cretonne with white ground and flowered pattern of medium size, in which a soft red predominates, the effect is so dainty and sounds so to spring into being at the first glimpse of it.

Couches, of course, are to be found, and also pretty settees of different sizes and shapes, if a little more formal furnishing is wanted.

The tables are also numerous, among them our old friends with lower shelves, and the new, square and oblong shapes; and, besides, are some novelties, the most striking, perhaps, being a commodious writing table with high back and small shelves, something like pigeon holes.

At Lawn Tea Parties.

The fashion for using wicker furniture on lawns is much followed in England, especially for serving tea. So are the beneficiaries, and the little tea table with folding shelves is a most convenient accessory.

As at the house for cakes and muffins. This consists of three wicker shelves, the shape and size of a plate, with a frame holding them sufficiently far apart to make the whole affair about three feet high.

Cretone, for all it has been used so many years, never was more popular than now, and the colors and the variety and beauty of its designs and coloring. Cretonne is a generic term, and includes a variety of fabric, with high back and small shelves, something like pigeon holes.

The ground of art ticking is generally a pure white, and its designs floral, both in small and large size. It is apparently fadeless, too. My attention was called to some curtains at east windows, which had previously served a season at west windows, and the colors were absolutely unchanged as compared with the goods used in other parts of the room removed from the light.

This pure white ground is in contrast to most French cretonne in which a pinkish cream ground is apt to predominate. The colors are very bright, and I have seen some which has been in use for twenty years and in spite of wear and washing its pink and buff ground and beautiful colors have no appearance of being faded, though, of course, its colors have softened by time and wear.

The designs are all charming, the dotted grounds and floral designs being the prettiest.

Birds and Flowers.

Linen tafeta is in the same category, and the English and the English chintzes, which have a highly glazed surface and usually enormous designs of flowers, with sometimes birds or parrots in addition.

Just now there is a great fancy for cretonnes to match wall papers, and they are so exactly alike that in the shops it is difficult to tell which is paper and which the woven material.

These make charming rooms with either wall paper or cretonne, for they are generally used with one or the other. Satine, something like cretonne, and much liked some years ago, is still to be had, but it is a very poor material, and is, on account of being easily rumpled, as it is light in weight.

The large designs are the ones most liked at present, though charming stripes of small flowers are numerous and will always find admirers and purchasers in women of conservative tastes.

Make Pretty Effects.

While these pretty cotton goods, by whatever name they are called, are specially suitable for summer and country use, many bedrooms in town houses are thus furnished, and every year their number increases.

In no other way with similar outer coverings such a good effect is obtained, and the variety of such furnishings is beyond question.

The prices have a considerable range, for I have seen a short-waisted box covered in charming blue and white cotton goods for 10 cents a yard, and the linen tafetas are \$2.50, and almost anywhere between can something pretty and desirable be found.

The widths of these materials vary from 27 inches to the linen tafetas, which are the widest, at 54, but one yard is perhaps the most general width used.

In Cretonne Room.

Charming little tables are covered entirely with the goods when used in a cretonne room; any shape desired can be made of pine and the cover fitted tightly on and fastened with brass tacks.

There are many pretty braids and fringes in colored cottons suitable for a fish. Old chairs may be covered so completely that the identity is lost, and in England, where so many such covers are used, generally loose ones, so as to be removed for washing, cheap pine or "deal" forms are made, and the light blue and white goods are showing, as all wood may be so concealed.

TABLE NOVELTIES

Recent Showings to Delight
Womankind and Others.

MANY PRETTY THINGS

A CASSEROLE SET IN BROWN
CROCKERY.

Table Fixings and New Ways to
Serve Desserts at
Luncheons.

Written for The Evening Star.

In the up-to-date table service artistic and dainty appointments are necessities, not luxuries. The time has gone when spotless linen and a table groaning with good things will satisfy the twentieth century aesthetic and gastronomic taste. Linen of the whitest and handsomest quality procurable is still a sine qua non, but on the damask must be daintily arranged attractive appointments to lend aid in the serving of well-composed menus.

Some one has said, "To Adam paradise was a home. To the good among his descendants home is a paradise." The woman who would make her home a paradise for some modern Adam will accomplish this end by her table, its appointments and menu be like Caesar's wife—above suspicion.

Vigilance must assert itself to this end at all times, not only when the smart dinner is on, but when the everyday dinner is served in family. Steam-heated houses and apartments have made the wearing of this summer gown very comfortable, and a pretty and economical fad of the winter has been for the women of the household to appear at the dinner table arrayed in these airy toilets.

At a smartly arranged table, be the menu ever so simple, these toilets give the daily commonplace function a festive air and the digestion an added stimulus. Since the dinner hour has been advanced the styles in dinner cloths have changed. The lace and drawn work spreads that often graced this meal are now seen no more, and the place is usurped by handsome damask cloths. The more elaborate spreads are now used on 5 o'clock tea tables, which are larger and more generously laden with edibles.

The small table, with its "tea" service and plate of toast or fancy cakes, is de mode, and to be up with the procession quite a substantial little luncheon must be at hand in the drawing room.

A very practical new feature in table appointments is the asbestos spreads to be found in all the shops. These covers take the place of the old-fashioned asbestos cloths of cotton flannel, but are far and away more sensible. They may be bought in various sizes and in sections folding up conveniently for stowing away when not in use. Another fad of today's table service is the passing of bonbons, olives and hors d'oeuvres by the servants instead of placing them on the table. The pretty dishes in which they were served, however, have not disappeared, but come in even quainter and more attractive patterns.

Seeking Fine Effects.

The manufacturers are nobly seconding the housewife in her search after charming table effects, and one establishment is making a specialty this spring of silver models after French designs. Beautiful pieces, such as compotes, salad bowls, cake and fruit dishes with wide rims beautifully pierced to resemble fine embroidery, are among the new things in this line.

Colonial bon bon baskets of pierced silver come in larger sizes for fruit, and there is a dainty trifle in cut glass which stands on one end and holds a number of small makes an ample place on which to arrange fruit.

The silver liverette there are dainty toast racks which are mighty comfortable to the breakfast table. They are graceful affairs supposed to keep the slices of toast from getting soggy.

A Lamp Novelty.

But, to come back to the dinner table, nothing in the world of a novelty is prettier than the urn-shaped table lamps just from Europe, with their standards of dull brass. These lamps have ground glass shades inset with jewels. With the lamps are used brass candlesticks, their paper shades covered with stung beads. The effect is better when the light is on, and in a single tone effect.

These shades are easily made, being evolved of beads strung on thin wire and glued to the standard. They are adorned with bead fringe. When electrically lighted nothing is lovelier than the light from the lamp bulb within broken up and graded by a thousand tiny sparkling surfaces.

A Dangerous Element.

Cut glass lamps are things of great beauty and expense, and no matter how careful one may be in handling them an accident is always possible.

The casserole is being every day more and more appreciated in this country, and from Germany comes a pretty chintz table novelty in the shape of casserole sets in brown crockery. Casseroles, as every one knows, are the tiny molds of rice or pastry used for the filling of a small cake. These little pots constitute a set. They are taken out of the oven, filled with lobster a la Newburg or some dainty between sauce and placed in a rack which comes with the set and served individually by the maid at table.

Exile and host had uncomfortable experience when serving sardines and knows only too well the innate depravity of this little fish. Well, to avoid the recurring sin of the unforgotten sardines, a small fluted china dish has been invented. The sardines are either turned out into the dish or are set inside of it, box and all.

Paper Fixings.

Paper novelties for luncheons and dinners are called for every smart, and they are being more readily to decorative schemes than cut glass or silver and at the same time give the table a novel and artistic touch.

These paper cases for holding bonbons and ices are works of art, and the dainty dollies that accompany them rival the best of china. They are made of designs and general effect. Round paper napkins with lace edges are used on luncheon and dinner tables, and a paper case which is used for holding bonbons or ices is of crape paper in swan shape. These swan cases are dainty, when carried out in white and gold, and the paper is made of the swan's bill. Especially stunning for wedding receptions and engagement luncheons are the paper napkins with high gold heels which boast a small bow at the toe.

A-Filled Rose.

A somewhat extravagant but pretty way of serving ice cream at a girls' luncheon was inaugurated last week in the dining room of the waiter brought to each fair guest a pretty plate upon which was lying a pink rose with a short stem. This precaution was taken to avoid the rose being dragged off the plate. The stem of the rose had been attached to the plate and the rose was used as a receptacle for an ice cream.

The roses were so large that they really contained a good supply of cream. The cream was frozen very stiff, and the roses, of course, melted in color.

Grape fruit is a standby of many hostesses for a luncheon course, and a new way of serving, or rather, a new glass in which to serve, this delectable fruit has just been devised. The glass is on the order of a champagne tumbler, innocent of decoration save a gold rim at the top and a monogram in gold. Filling in the bowl is a small glass with short stem, which holds the shredded fruit. Around this cup is packed ice dotted with preserved cherries. The glass has a bow of soft ribbon of the luncheon cloth tied about the stem. Through the ribbon is stuck a rose or carnation. The whole is set in a gold bordered plate. With these dainty novelties there is no excuse for unattractive tables, and.

All luncheon history attests that happiness for man—the hungry sinner—Since Eve ate apples, much depends on dinner.



JUVENILE GARMENTS

Simple and Sensible Styles
Shown for Children.

FAVORITE MATERIALS

ONE-PIECE RUSSIAN DRESS AND
SUSPENDER MODELS POPULAR.

A Serge Reefer Is New and Delights
the Youthful Miss—Silk Coats
for Dressy Wear.

Written for The Evening Star by Katherine Anderson.

Simplicity is the predominating feature of the first spring fashions for children, especially in their outdoor garments. Contrasted with last year's frilled, bloused and fur-bowed modes, the models for the approaching season are plain almost to severity.

One of the most popular models is the little dress, which has a single row of buttons down the front and a small collar. The dress is made of a light material, and the buttons are of a contrasting color.

Another popular model is the suspender dress, which is made of a light material and has a small collar and a row of buttons down the front. The suspenders are of a contrasting color and are fastened to the dress with small buttons.

The serge reefer is a new model for the youthful miss. It is made of a light material and has a small collar and a row of buttons down the front. The reefer is fastened to the dress with small buttons.

Silk coats for dressy wear are also popular. They are made of a light material and have a small collar and a row of buttons down the front. The coats are fastened to the dress with small buttons.

The coarse weaves in silk are being used very largely for the small girl's coat. A brown model is gathered into a shallow shoulder yoke, which is entirely concealed by narrow overlapping collars. The fullness at the back is caught in at the waist line by a broad striped strap of the same material. A fancy silk braid finishes the strap across the edges and also trims the collars and cuffs. This coat is worn either with a wide-brimmed, "floppy" hat in cream color or light tan, or with a soft beaver in exactly the same shade of brown.

Another silk coat for very dressy wear is cut sacque-shape, with a decided spring in the under-arm seam to give ample fullness to the skirt. The sleeves are evenly full

and are finished with a flaring cuff. The shawl collar, equestrian which mark the shoulders and the cuffs are trimmed with a sheer linen embroidery in medallion patterns. A wide hat of plisse silk mull, with trimmings of rose taffeta ribbon and a hair knot of the same shade, add to the picturesque of the little lady who wears this coat.

All in One Color.

Little girls of fashion will be dressed very much in one color this spring, from their hats to their shoes and stockings. Shoe dealers are displaying footwear with tops of almost any color to match the fabric of the coat or dress, and stockings are obtainable in any shade. For every-day service a shoe of dull kid is found most satisfactory.

The buttons are of a dull finish and the soles are thick. Not the least ending story is the only thing needed to clean it. Patent leather for children is not being worn for every day's wear, as it is not enough give to it for a child who is running about all day.

With the suspender dress, a variety of guimpe and shirt-waist models are shown in white and colors. A dress of unusual attractiveness is cut after the suspender model from Russian pony skin, with its dun-colored spots, is a favorite leather for fashioning belts.

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Small boys' fashions show a tendency toward simple effects, unless the full-edged knickerbockers are contrary to that note. The pleated trousers, which have been entirely dropped into the background, and the accepted school suit is made with slightly bloused knee trousers and Norfolk jacket. Blue and brown serges are a feature of the school dress is what Master Schoolboy wears with his Norfolk coat. Broad ties are much in vogue and are pulled outside of the spring revers, which are by his sister's dress. The grown up and likes to hide any accessory which savors of girlishness. Shirt blouses of cotton chevrot finished with only a band at the neck are shown with Norfolk coats.

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PARIS, February 11, 1905.</